AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently amended). A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a pathology affecting ~~the~~ internal tissues of an eye, ~~excluding the pathologies affecting the optic nerve,~~ comprising the administration of a composition comprising from 10 to 500 μg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ~~the~~ ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through ~~the~~ external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues and wherein said internal tissues of the eye are selected from the group consisting of sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, vitreous body, and choroidea.

Claim 14 (Previously presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

Claim 15 (Previously presented). The method of claim 13, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously presented). The method of claim 16, wherein the pathology has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

Claim 18 (Previously presented). The method of claim 14, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 19 (Previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200-250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 20 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

Claim 21 (Currently amended). A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a pathology affecting ~~the~~ internal tissues of an eye, ~~excluding retinal pathologies and pathologies affecting the optic nerve,~~ comprising the administration of a composition comprising nerve growth factor over an ~~the~~ ocular surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through ~~the~~ external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues and wherein said internal tissues of the eye are selected from the group consisting of sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, vitreous body, and choroidea.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Previously presented). The method of claim 22, wherein the pathology pathologies has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

Claim 24 (Previously presented). The method of claim 21, wherein the composition contains from 200-250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 25 (Currently amended). A method for the treatment ~~or prophylaxis~~ of a pathology affecting ~~the~~ internal tissues of an eye, comprising the administration of a composition comprising from 200 to 500 μg/ml of nerve growth factor over an ~~the~~ ocular

surface of a subject in need thereof, wherein said nerve growth factor passes through ~~the~~ external tissues of said eye to said internal tissues.

Claim 26 (Previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the composition comprises the nerve growth factor in a pharmaceutically acceptable ophthalmic carrier and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solutions, suspensions, ointments, gels, or creams.

Claim 27 (Previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an ocular erodible insert, a polymeric membrane reservoir system to be placed in the conjunctival sac, or in combination with a local bandage and a therapeutic contact lens.

Claim 28 (Previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is selected from pathologies affecting the sclera, ciliary bodies, crystalline lens, retina, optic nerve, vitreous body, and choroidea.

Claim 29 (Previously presented). The method of claim 28, wherein the pathology has a trophic, post-traumatic, infective, post-surgical, autoimmune, dystrophic, or degenerative origin, or is originated by laser treatment.

Claim 30 (Previously presented). The method of claim 26, wherein the composition is in the form of an ophthalmic solution.

Claim 31 (Previously presented). The method of claim 30, wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 32 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein the nerve growth factor is of murine or human origin, or is a human recombinant nerve growth factor.

Claim 33 (Previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the optic nerve.

Claim 34 (Previously presented). The method of claim 25, wherein the pathology affecting the internal tissues of an eye is a pathology affecting the retina.

Claim 35 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 33 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.

Claim 36 (Previously presented). The method according to claim 34 wherein the ophthalmic solution contains from 200 to 250 μg/ml of nerve growth factor.